

sional nursing organizations, set for August 14 to 17 in San Francisco.—San Francisco News, July 18.

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"Doctors Should Report Drivers"

A change in State laws which would make it mandatory for physicians to report drivers whom they consider unsafe was urged by Dr. Walter Scott Franklin, vice-president of the California Safety Council, at a meeting of the group yesterday.

"As the law stands," he said, "a physician is not permitted to report such cases. We could achieve a great accident reduction if physicians were compelled to report flagrant cases."

The dangerously slow as well as the physically incompetent driver was also scored by Doctor Franklin, who pointed out that it is not necessarily the fast motorist who causes accidents. The latter, provided his speed is not caused by recklessness, alcoholism nor competitiveness, is usually a good driver, he said, whereas the slow driver often causes an accumulation of fifteen to twenty cars behind him, inducing recklessness in those who want to get ahead.

Within the near future, according to Doctor Franklin, autos will be equipped with special headlight glass to eliminate glare for about \$22 per automobile and drivers will be urged to wear glareless glasses. Night blindness, a contributing cause to many accidents, is caused by deficiency in vitamin "A" and may be rectified by a diet heavy in spinach, cheese, dried apricots and calves' liver, he said.—San Francisco News, June 30.

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Poliomyelitis Fund Sought

General Hospital Reports Increase in Number of Cases

Officials of General Hospital yesterday appealed to the Board of Supervisors for funds to combat poliomyelitis, which has been increasing in number of cases during the last few days.

Thirty Being Treated

Everett J. Gray, executive superintendent of the hospital, reported thirty cases are now under treatment. The victims are coming from all parts of the county. There does not seem to be any section where the disease is more prevalent.

Colonel Wayne R. Allen, County Manager, in forwarding Superintendent Gray's report to the supervisors, said:

"The hospital authorities have been informed that the present situation is to be considered as an emergency and that ample personnel and medical attention must be given regardless of budget limitations. Any additional expenses will be appropriated from the unappropriated reserve, which is the purpose of providing reserves in the county budget."

Ward Segregated

The hospital has set up a special segregated ward for treatment in preparation for any further outbreaks of the disease. This ward now has been opened and organized for the present emergency.

Ordinarily there are only two or three cases of the disease under treatment at General Hospital, sometimes none.—Los Angeles Times, July 13.

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Holiday Deaths Pass 300; None Due to Fireworks

(By the Associated Press)

Building to the climax of Independence Day, violent deaths for the first three days of the four-day "week-end" passed three hundred last night.

As in recent years, automobile fatalities accounted for more than half the total, with 165. Drownings ran a poor second with 84.

Fireworks, once notorious as dealers of sudden destruction, caused not a single reported fatality. The only fireworks accident of any proportions was recorded in Brooklyn, where five boys were injured by setting off a handful of giant cannon crackers inside a tin container. Two of them may die, doctors said.

Railroad accidents killed 16, shootings a dozen, airplane crashes 3, while miscellaneous forms of violence totaled 27.

The list by states, including all causes, was:

Alabama, 9; Arizona, 2; Arkansas, 3; California, 26; Colorado, 4; Connecticut, none; Florida, 7; Georgia, 10; Idaho, 1; Illinois, 11; Indiana, 13; Iowa, 5; Kansas, 5; Kentucky, 8; Louisiana, 5; Maine, 5; Missouri, 11; Massachusetts, 10; Michigan, 9; Minnesota, 8; Mississippi, 9; Montana, 4; Nebraska, 4; New Hampshire, 2; New Jersey, 10; New Mexico, 1; New York, 22; North Dakota, 3; Ohio, 22; Oklahoma, 5; Oregon, 3; Pennsylvania, 14; South Carolina, 5; South Dakota, 3; Tennessee, 4; Texas, 18; Utah, 1; Virginia, 9; West Virginia, 4; Washington, 6; Wisconsin, 2; and District of Columbia, 1.—Los Angeles Examiner, July 4.

LETTERS

Subject: Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons.

To the Editor:—The twenty-ninth annual Clinical Congress will be held in Philadelphia, October 16 to 20. The surgeons of that great medical center will present a five-day clinical program that will provide a complete showing of their clinical activities in all departments of surgery.

At the presidential meeting and convocation Monday evening, Dr. Howard C. Naffziger of San Francisco will deliver the presidential address and the new officers will be inaugurated: Dr. George P. Muller, Philadelphia, president; Dr. Henry W. Cave, New York, and Dr. David E. Robertson, Toronto, vice-presidents. On this occasion fellowship will be conferred upon the 1939 class of initiates.

The preliminary clinical program appears in the June Bulletin of the College and the June issue of "Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics." It will be noted that the schedules are arranged by specialties, and so correlated that the visiting surgeon may devote his time continuously to those subjects in which he is most interested. . . .

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE CRILL,
Chairman, Board of Regents.

Subject: Ambulatory Tipster.

A Santa Barbara colleague sends the following information:

"An Irishman, aged about 35, claiming to be a jockey and horse trainer, with wide knowledge of tracks and races as well as the names of doctors in many cities, is visiting doctors and stating he is contemplating a septum operation.

"Just as he leaves, he offers a hot tip on the day's races at Hollywood, with promise of big winnings. Oddly, his horses do win, but he never returns. Names—Hannigan, Hunt, and Hickgerald.

"I refused his offer, but two of my friends lost small sums, and also a tenfold winning on one of the tips."

Subject: San Francisco Surgical Society.

San Francisco, California,
July 1, 1939.

To the Editor:—I have been instructed to advise you of the formation of the San Francisco Surgical Society during the spring of this year.

The Society consists of twenty-four founder members. The officers are Thomas F. Mullen, president; George K. Rhodes, vice-president; John W. Cline, secretary-treasurer.

Regular scientific and clinical meetings will be held throughout the year.

Very truly yours,

JOHN W. CLINE, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Subject: Clinics for Venereal Diseases.

San Francisco, California,
July 1, 1939.

To the Editor:—The Health Department clinic at 680 Howard Street, San Francisco, operated by the Department of Public Health, San Francisco City and County, cooperating with the State Health Department and the United States Public Health Service, for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases, is now engaged in its fourth month of service.

An effort is being made to direct patients found able to pay for care to private physicians. Plans are under way to establish a list of physicians willing to treat venereal disease